

CLEAN VERSION OF ALL PENDING CLAIMSIn the Claims:

All pending claims are listed in this section for purposes of clarity, with claims that have been amended identified as such. Claims 2-32 have been cancelled herein and claims 33-57 have been newly added – a version with markings to show changes made is at pages 8-12.

1. A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure comprising means for engaging the mouth and removable means for bracing the engagement means to lock it in an engaged position.

Sub (1) 33. (New) A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure comprising an engagement device configured for interlocking with a formation around the mouth to retain the closure on the mouth, and a band for bracing the engagement device to lock it in an engaged condition by resisting outward movement of the engagement device when the band is in a bracing position; characterised in that:

in an operative position of the closure on the container mouth and prior to first time the closure is removed, the band is integrally coupled to the closure by a plurality of integral frangible connections, the band being movable relative to the engagement device out of its bracing position, and the frangible connections being breakable sequentially when the band is moved out of its bracing position for the first time.

a 34. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the frangible connections are collapsible without shearing, to permit limited outward deformation of the engagement device.

35. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the container has a mouth having a larger configuration than the engagement device of the closure in an unstressed condition of the engagement device, such that when the closure is fitted to the container, the engagement device and the band are stressed.

36. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, further comprising a plurality of ridges on a surface of the closure facing the band.

37. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the container mouth has a lateral dimension of at least about 5 cm.

38. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the container and closure are able to withstand an internal pressure of at least 60 psi.

39. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, further comprising co-operating abutment surfaces for producing at least one mechanical interlock between the bracing band and the engagement device for communicating tension in the bracing band to the engagement device.

40. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the engagement device is segmented.

41. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the engagement device comprises one or more lugs which engage one or more undercuts adjacent to the container mouth.

42. (New) An assembly according to claim 41, wherein the undercut comprises a rim around the container mouth.

43. (New) An assembly according to claim 41, wherein at least one said lug comprises a locking projection, the locking projection comprising a lead-in ramp surface, and an abutment surface.

44. (New) An assembly according to claim 43, wherein the abutment surface is inclined at an angle whose magnitude is less than that of the inclination of the ramp surface.

45. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the closure is of plastics.

46. (New) An assembly according to claim 33, wherein the closure is refittable to the container mouth after it has been removed for the first time.

47. (New) A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure comprising an engagement device configured for interlocking with a formation around the mouth to retain the closure on the mouth, and a band for bracing the engagement device to lock it in an engaged condition by resisting outward movement of the engagement device when the band is in a bracing position; characterised in that:

the band is mounted for hinged movement out of its bracing position relative to the engagement device, the band remaining intact as it is moved out of said bracing position.

48. (New) An assembly according to claim 47, wherein in an operative position of the closure on the container mouth and prior to the first time the closure is removed, the band is integrally coupled to the closure by a plurality of integral frangible connections.

49. (New) A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure comprising an engagement device configured for interlocking with a formation around the mouth to retain the closure on the mouth, and a band for bracing the engagement device to lock it in an engaged condition by resisting outward movement of the engagement device when the band is in a bracing position; characterised in that:

the band is movable relative to the engagement device out of its bracing position and, upon such movement, the band remains intact and releases the bracing effect progressively around at least a portion of the periphery of the closure.

50. (New) A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure comprising an engagement device configured for interlocking with a formation around the mouth to retain the closure on the mouth, and a band for bracing the engagement device to lock it in an engaged condition by resisting

outward movement of the engagement device when the band is in a bracing position; characterised by:

co-operating abutment surfaces for producing at least one mechanical interlock between the band and the engagement device in a circumferential direction, to restrict movement of the band relative to the engagement device in the circumferential direction.

51. (New) A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure comprising an engagement device configured for interlocking with a formation around the mouth to retain the closure on the mouth, and a band for bracing the engagement device to lock it in an engaged condition by resisting outward movement of the engagement device when the band is in a bracing position; characterised in that:

the band is movable intact and relative to the engagement device out of the bracing position, and in that the mouth has a larger configuration than the engagement device of the closure in an unstressed condition of the engagement device, such that when the closure is in its operative position on the container mouth, the engagement device is stressed outwardly and the band is maintained in a state of static tension, said tension increasing the bracing effect of the band on the engagement device.

52. (New) A press-fit, lift-off container closure comprising an upper wall, a side wall or wall segment depending from the upper wall, an engagement formation on a radially inner face of the side wall or wall segment, and a bracing band for bracing the side wall or wall segment to restrain radial outward movement thereof; characterised in that:

the bracing band is integral with the closure and is joined thereto by a plurality of spaced apart frangible connections, and in that the bracing band is mounted radially outside said wall or wall segment carrying the engagement formation.

53. (New) A closure according to claim 52, wherein the band is mounted for hinged movement relative to the closure upon shearing of the frangible connections.

54. (New) A closure according to claim 52, wherein the frangible connections are collapsible without shearing to permit limited outward deformation of the wall or wall segment.

55. (New) A closure according to claim 52, further comprising a plurality of ridges on a surface of the closure facing the bracing band.

56. (New) A closure according to claim 52, further comprising co-operating abutment surfaces for forming at least one mechanical interlock between the bracing band and the wall or wall segment for communicating tension in the bracing band to the wall or wall segment.

57. (New) A closure according to claim 52 comprising a plurality of depending side wall segments.

UK Please cancel claims 2-32.